

RESOLUTION NO. 07-21-2026A

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF GAINESVILLE SUPPORTING CONTINUED STATE
FUNDING FOR THE AMTRAK HEARTLAND FLYER AND
REQUESTING INCLUSION IN THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION FISCAL YEAR 2028-2029
LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST.**

WHEREAS, the Amtrak Heartland Flyer has provided daily round-trip passenger rail service between Fort Worth, Texas and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma since its inaugural run in 1999, serving the communities of Fort Worth and Gainesville in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2025, the Heartland Flyer carried more than 80,000 passengers, an increase of approximately 14 percent over the prior year, demonstrating strong and growing public demand for intercity passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS, the Heartland Flyer serves students, families, seniors, business travelers, and individuals who depend on the train to reach medical care and essential services, and demand peaks during major regional events such as the Red River Rivalry weekend; and

WHEREAS, the Heartland Flyer supports tourism and local economies in both Texas and Oklahoma, sustaining restaurant and hotel traffic and generating sales-tax revenue for communities along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Heartland Flyer is a joint venture between Amtrak, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), and TxDOT has been a steadfast funding partner since Fiscal Year 2007; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, adequate state funding failed to be allocated to ensure the route's continuation, requiring the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), through its Regional Transportation Council, to step in with emergency bridge funding to keep the train operating into 2026; and

WHEREAS, that emergency bridge funding is now running out, and a funding deadline of August 30, 2026 is quickly approaching, placing the continued operation of the Heartland Flyer in jeopardy without Texas's share being secured; and

WHEREAS, Senate Transportation Chairman Tan Parker, joined by Representatives Salman Bhojani, Giovanni Capriglione, David Cook, Charlie Geren, and John McQueeney, has formally requested that TxDOT commit funding to sustain Heartland Flyer service through the next legislative session and include dedicated funding in TxDOT's Legislative Appropriations Request for the 90th Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, Representative David Spiller and Senator Brent Hagenbuch, who represent Gainesville and Cooke County, communities served directly by the Heartland Flyer, have jointly

submitted a letter of support to TxDOT in support of Chairman Parker's request, reinforcing the importance of this service to the district and the region; and

WHEREAS, placing the Heartland Flyer on a stable, recurring funding footing, rather than relying on emergency bridge measures, is the only path to ensuring its long-term viability and signals Texas's commitment to its interstate rail partners and the communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the Heartland Flyer as a vital transportation, economic, and quality-of-life asset for the region and supports its continued operation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, TEXAS, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON JULY 21, 2026:

Section 1: The City hereby expresses its strong support for the continued operation of the Amtrak Heartland Flyer passenger rail service between Fort Worth, Texas and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Section 2: The City urges the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to commit the funding necessary to bridge the Heartland Flyer's operations through the August 30, 2026 deadline and to sustain service through the next state legislative session.

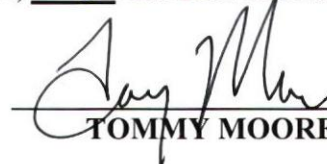
Section 3: The City urges TxDOT to include dedicated, explicit funding for the Amtrak Heartland Flyer in its Fiscal Year 2028-2029 Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) to the 90th Texas Legislature, placing this essential route on a stable and recurring funding footing.

Section 4: The City directs the Mayor to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Transportation Commission, the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, and the members of the Texas Legislature representing this community.

Section 5: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 21ST DAY OF JULY 2026 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT, 0 ABSTENTIONS


TOMMY MOORE, MAYOR

ATTEST:


DIANA LOCH, CITY SECRETARY

